



Courtesy of MATS

Project name: MATS Hybrid Bus Project

Transit agency: Montgomery Area Transit System

Location: Montgomery, Alabama

TIGGER goal: Energy and GHG emissions reduction

FTA region number: IV

Award amount: \$2,675,000

Congressional district: AL-2 and AL-3

Funding mechanism:
Recovery Act (ARRA)

Montgomery Area Transit System Adds Hybrid Buses to its Fleet

For the first time ever in Alabama, a public transit agency is adding hybrid buses to its fleet.

The Montgomery Area Transit System (MATS) is replacing eight older diesel buses with state-of-the-art hybrid buses thanks to funding from the TIGGER Program and the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

The hybrid buses are considerably more energy efficient than the diesel buses, which are reaching their maximum lifespan and take considerable resources to maintain. Hybrid buses typically get 25%–35% better fuel economy compared to standard diesel buses.

Lower fuel use means lower costs and less pollution. Reducing pollution is particularly important in Montgomery—while the city is currently in compliance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) criteria pollutant standards, pending stricter EPA rules may change that.



The Montgomery Area Transit System (MATS) offers 14 fixed routes within its 135 square-mile service area. Owned by the city of Montgomery and operated by the First Transit Group, the MATS fleet includes 35 fixed-route buses and 11 paratransit buses. The transit agency is essential to area commuters—a recent survey showed that 60.9% of riders used the service for weekday work commutes. Ridership has increased with expanded service—from 2002 to 2006, transit trips increased by 157% and revenue hours increased by 56%. MATS buses annually cover more than 6,669,000 passenger miles and make about 1.3 million trips.

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Exterior and interior views of one of the eight new fuel efficient hybrid buses purchased by the Montgomery Area Transit System.

The new hybrid buses also support the American workforce. Manufactured by Gillig in Hayward, California, the low-floor 35-foot buses feature hybrid drive systems built by Allison, which is based in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Impact:

Hybrid buses typically get 25%–35% better fuel economy compared to standard diesel buses. Lower fuel use means lower costs and less pollution.

About TIGGER

The Transit Investment for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) Program was established in 2009 by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Designed to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in transit agencies around the country, the TIGGER Program made funds available for capital investments that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions or lower the energy use of public transportation systems. An initial \$100 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grants funded 43 competitively-selected transit projects. In 2010, the FTA provided an additional \$75 million in grants to fund 27 new TIGGER projects. These 70 projects are employing a variety of technologies to meet the program goals, including solar installations, building efficiency improvements, wind technology, wayside energy storage for rail, and purchase of more efficient buses. In fiscal year 2011, FTA provided an additional \$49.9 million to continue the program.

For More Information

Montgomery Area Transit System
montgomerytransit.com

FTA TIGGER:
www.fta.dot.gov/TIGGER



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
1-866-377-8642

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